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Agenda item 94

Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee*

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1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled:

"Environment and sustainable development:

"(a) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

"(b) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

"(c) Convention on Biological Diversity;

"(d) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"(e) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"(f) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

"(g) Sustainable mountain development"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 12th to 18th meetings, on 16 and 17 and from 20 to 22 October 2003. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.12-18). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 6 to 9 October (see A/C.2/58/SR.2-6). An account of the

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/58/484 and Add.1-8.

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Committee's further consideration of the item will be given in the addenda to the present report, as follows:

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Proposals not related to a specific sub-item	8

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 94
Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-second session (3-7 February 2003)[1]

Letter dated 14 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué adopted by the Chairmen/Coordinators of the Chapters of the Group of 77 and China at their thirty-fourth meeting, held at Geneva on 26 and 27 June 2003 (A/58/204)

Letter dated 1 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the ministerial declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China at their twenty-seventh annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 2003 (A/58/413)

(a) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005

Report of the Secretary-General (A/58/164)

Letter dated 16 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the joint declaration of the European Union, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Alliance of Small Island States, Switzerland and Turkey entitled "The way forward on renewable energy" (A/C.2/58/10)

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/58/25)

(b) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General (A/58/158)

(c) Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (A/58/191)

(d) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General on the further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/58/170)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the draft provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/58/567)

Letter dated 20 August 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final report of the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the international meeting to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 4 to 8 August 2003 (A/58/303)

Letter dated 21 August 2003 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the thirty-fourth Pacific Islands Forum, held in Auckland, New Zealand, from 14 to 16 August 2003 (A/58/304)

Note by the Secretariat on preparations for an international meeting to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/C.2/58/4)

Letter dated 10 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Cape Verde to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Small Island Developing States of the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Praia from 1 to 5 September 2003 (A/C.2/58/12)

(e) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/58/277)

(f) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (A/58/308)

(g) Sustainable mountain development

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the International Year of Mountains, 2002 (A/58/134)

Letter dated 17 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the conclusions of the first global meeting of members of the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, held in Merano, Italy, on 5 and 6 October 2003 (A/C.2/58/8)

4. At the 12th meeting, on 16 October, introductory statements were made by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (under sub-item (f)), the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (under sub-item (c)), the Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator (under sub-item (e)), the Deputy Chief of the Energy and Transport Branch of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (under sub-item (a)), the Director of the Liaison Office in New York of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (under sub-item (g)) and the Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (under the item as a whole) (see A/C.2/58/SR.12).

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States made a statement (see A/C.2/58/SR.12).

6. At the 15th meeting, on 20 October, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Director of the Liaison Office in New York of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (see A/C.2/58/SR.15).

7. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification made statements (see A/C.2/58/SR.15).